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THE

# (FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF THE

# FABIAN SOCIETY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

31st MARCH, 1929.

ADOPTED BY THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY ON  
13TH JUNE, 1929.

Also the Rules of the Society.

PUBLISHED BY

THE FABIAN SOCIETY, 11 DARTMOUTH STREET,  
WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.1.

JULY, 1929.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

1929—1930.

A. ERLE APPELBE.  
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F. LAWSON DODD.  
MRS. BARBARA DRAKE.  
HERMAN FINER.  
F. W. GALTON.  
G. T. GARRATT.  
CAPT. BASIL HALL, R.N.  
HUBERT HUMPHREYS.  
MISS HELEN KEYNES.  
PROF. H. J. LASKI.

MISS SUSAN LAWRENCE, M.P.  
SIR JOHN MAYNARD, K.C.I.E.  
EDW. R. PEASE.  
S. K. RATCLIFFE.  
W. A. ROBSON.  
HARRY SNELL, M.P.  
R. H. TAWNEY.  
RT. HON. SIDNEY WEBB, M.P.  
MRS. SIDNEY WEBB.  
G. R. BLANCO WHITE.

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## Women's Group.

Hon. Secretary: MISS D. TAYLOR, 11 Dartmouth St., Westminster, S.W.1.

## Fabian Nursery.

Hon. Secretary: F. W. HOOPER, 34, Castlebar Park, Ealing, W.5.

## New Fabian Group.

Hon. Secretary: C. M. SKEPPER, 47, Gt. Ormond Street, W.C.1.

*Hon. Treasurer:*  
F. LAWSON DODD.

*Hon. Auditor:*  
JAMES BACON, F.L.A.

*Hon. Secretary:*  
EDWARD R. PEASE.

*General Secretary:*  
F. W. GALTON.

*Office:*  
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*Telephone:* VICTORIA 1915.

# The Fabian Society.

ESTABLISHED 1883.

FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH, 1929.

SUBMITTED TO THE ANNUAL MEETING ON JUNE 13TH, 1929.

THE year under review has been marked by a continued development and consolidation of the Labour movement and the Labour Party. The figures of the recent bye-elections show a large turnover of votes to Labour, and there are clear indications that the country is turning to that Party as the real opposition to the reactionary policy of the government. It is worthy of note that the Fabian Society, which has taken its part in the education and formation of public opinion in political affairs, has now nearly a hundred of its members adopted as candidates for Parliament at the approaching election.

In our own affairs the year has been one of some trouble and difficulty owing to the need for obtaining new premises and removing. The premises at 25, Tothill Street, which we had occupied for fourteen years, were sold for rebuilding, and are now demolished, and we received notice to quit in March. It was impossible to find any suitable premises to let in the vicinity, and we were accordingly faced with the alternative of leaving Westminster or purchasing a suitable house in the neighbourhood. Fortunately such a house was available and for sale at a reasonable price, and eventually it was decided to buy the freehold of our present premises, 11, Dartmouth Street. A member of the Society kindly advanced the sum of £2,500 on a mortgage, and the Atkinson Fund Trustees advanced a further £1,000 free of interest but to be repaid by annual instalments. This sufficed to purchase the freehold and to put the premises in thorough repair, including some necessary reconstruction. We removed on September 24th, and the new house is satisfactory and meets our needs in every way, except that it does not provide a hall for meetings.

In spite of the interruption thus caused, we have to report that the work of the Society has been carried on as vigorously as ever. We issued three new tracts during the year—about the average of recent years. The bookshop business and the sale of publications, which declined seriously in 1926, is still unsatisfactory, and shows a falling-off from last year probably due in part to the dislocation of business during removal. The Summer

School was held as usual, and the courses of lectures in Kingsway Hall and Essex Hall were carried through successfully. The Local Government Inquiry Bureau has continued its valuable work and "The Local Government News" is now in its sixth year. The book boxes and lending library have both been in less demand than last year. The bye-election fund again proved its usefulness by enabling us to give prompt assistance to several members standing as Labour Parliamentary candidates at bye-elections. The membership of the Society shows a slight increase on the previous year, and in this direction we desire to appeal again to our members for more help in increasing the number of candidates for election. As all our members have to submit to election, we do not engage in advertising campaigns for new recruits, but rely upon those already associated with us to invite suitable candidates. Many of our members have rendered valuable help in this way, as well as in taking part in the continuous campaign of speaking and writing, which is so marked a characteristic of the Labour Party in this country.

#### STATISTICS OF MEMBERSHIP.

The following is an analysis of the membership of the Society on 31st March, 1929:—

				County of	Gt. Britain and Ireland (excluding London).	Abroad.	Provincial Societies.	Totals.
				London.				
Men	...	...	...	342	634	79	114	1169
Women	...	...	...	262	344	40	47	693
<b>Totals</b>				<b>604</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>1862</b>
1928	...	...	...	623	945	124	158	1850

The figures are compiled on the same basis as in previous years, and the total shows a small increase of twelve members as compared with a decrease of twenty-two members last year. It should be remembered, however, that the figures of the provincial societies do not include their full membership, but only those members for whom subscriptions are paid to the parent society, and whose names accordingly appear in our list.

The number of new members elected during the year was 111, as compared with ninety-one in the previous year. A few old members who had resigned or left us for various reasons rejoined during the year. Resignations accepted by the Committee numbered only twenty-one as compared with thirty-two in the previous year, but the losses by death were considerable, and included a number of well-known members of the Society. Early in 1929 we decided to purge the list of members whose subscriptions had lapsed and who showed no sign of interest in our work,

or for whom we had no postal addresses. In this way about sixty names were taken off the list, and the net increase in membership was reduced to the small figure as shown in the foregoing figures.

The number of associates at the end of the year was 207, including 130 men and seventy-seven women, a decrease of nine in the figures of the previous year. There are also 158 subscribers on the list, consisting mainly of societies and institutions, a decrease of six during the year. The number of affiliated societies has declined by two only, from fifty-four last year to fifty-two now. From this we may perhaps infer that the falling-off in numbers in this respect has now practically ceased, and that we may look for some increase in this direction in future years.

We have to record with great regret the loss through death of many members during the year, including several of long-standing membership. As obituary notices have appeared about most of them in *Fabian News*, it is unnecessary to repeat the details here, but mention may be made of Lord Haldane, O.M., one of our most distinguished members and an ex-Lord Chancellor; A. MacCallum Scott, a member of the Executive Committee and former M.P., who lost his life in an aeroplane disaster while on a visit to Canada; Richard Whiteing, the well-known author and journalist, best known perhaps as the writer of "No. 5, John Street," and a very old member of the Society; Sir William Ramsden, J.P., of Huddersfield, Banker and Chairman of the Halifax Building Society; Mrs. A. D. Lewis, a well-known author of books on psychology and kindred subjects; J. Spencer Hill, a prominent journalist and member of the Enfield Urban District Council; Daniel McEwen, of Stirling, one of our oldest members, well known as a visitor to Summer Schools; Dr. J. Stirling Robertson and Philip Crow, of the Glasgow Fabian Society; R. T. Manson, of the Liverpool Fabian Society; and others who had been active supporters of our work in various ways though perhaps not so well known to members generally.

#### PROVINCIAL AND OTHER SOCIETIES.

During the year under review there has been little change to note in regard to the various provincial and other Fabian Societies recorded in our last report. No new local societies have been established, but the membership of most of the other local societies has shown an increase during the year. Through the Fabian Nursery and the New Fabian Group, a close connection between the Society and the various Universities is maintained, and a steady stream of new members of the Society is kept up.

We maintain a close connection with the active Fabian Society in Japan, which issues many tracts and publications, unfortunately not readable by anyone in our circle; and with the

Escuela Nueva, a Spanish Society founded on similar lines to our own, and carrying on active propaganda in that country, including the translation and publication of some of the best known Fabian tracts. The Gesellschaft für Sozialforschung, of Frankfurt, Germany, is still affiliated to us, and we continue active relations with that body; with the League for Industrial Democracy of New York, which carries on active propaganda in the United States on very similar lines to our own work here; and also with the newly established Fabian Club at Auckland, New Zealand. Our relations with the Labour and Socialist International remain unchanged and as described in our last and some previous reports.

#### MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY.

For the winter of 1929 we organised a series of six lectures on current questions dealing with a number of subjects of general current interest, which were either new or had recently reached new stages. These were all delivered before the close of the year, as follows:—

- Jan. 11.—(The Lt.-Col. T. S. B. Williams' Memorial Lecture).  
 " Problems of the Balkans," by G. P. Gooch, D.Litt.,  
 F.B.A. Chairman, Dr. F. Lawson Dodd.
- „ 25.—" Herbert Hoover: the President and his Policy," by  
 S. K. Ratcliffe. Chairman, Professor H. J. Laski.
- Feb. 8.—" Post-War Trade Unionism in Germany," by Major  
 A. G. Church, D.S.O. Chairman, H. Finer, D.Sc.
- „ 22.—" Nationalisation: Old and New," by G. D. H. Cole.  
 Chairman, C. M. Lloyd.
- Mar. 8.—" The New Women Voters and the Coming Election,"  
 by Mrs. Blanco White. Chairman, Sir J. Maynard,  
 K.C.I.E.
- „ 22.—" Political Parties and the Coming Election," by Lt.-  
 Com. the Hon. J. M. Kenworthy, M.P. Chairman,  
 Harry Snell, M.P.

Some changes had to be made in the arrangements, but the first four lectures were delivered as advertised. Owing to the bye-election in the Holland Division of Lincs, Mrs. Blanco White was unable to give her lecture. Accordingly the last two lectures were transposed, Commander Kenworthy giving his on March 8th, and Mrs. H. M. Swanwick taking Mrs. Blanco White's place and giving the lecture on March 22nd.

Questions and discussion were invited at the close of the lectures as in former years, and the charge of 1s. per lecture or 5s. for a course ticket to non-members of the Society desiring to attend was continued, and yielded some help towards expenses of the lectures and the printing and issuing of the syllabus, etc.

The attendance at these lectures was fairly good, and showed a marked improvement on the previous year. It ought, however, to be considerably increased, in view of the importance of the subjects and lectures arranged. Members of the Society are invited to attend them free of charge, and tickets of admission are sent regularly to all those in the London area and to any others asking for them. The Executive Committee hopes that in future all our members will make an effort to attend these lectures and take part in the discussions whenever possible.

As no notice was received requiring the calling of a business meeting during the year, only one such meeting was held, viz. :—

June 14th.—In Fabian Hall. The Annual Meeting.

The Annual Report and Accounts were presented and passed after an interesting and useful discussion ranging over the whole of the various activities of the Society.

#### KINGSWAY HALL LECTURES.

The usual autumn course of lectures was arranged again in the Kingsway Hall for six successive Thursday evenings, beginning on October 18th, 1928. The general title was "Western Civilisation: Whither is it Going?" and the dates, subjects, lecturers and chairmen were as follows:—

- Oct. 18.—"What is Western Civilisation?" Hon. Bertrand Russell, F.R.C.S. Chairman, G. R. Blanco White.
- „ 25.—"The Place of Science in Western Civilisation." J. B. S. Haldane. Chairman, Rt. Hon. Earl Russell.
- Nov. 1.—"The Place of Labour in Western Civilisation." Professor C. Delisle Burns. Chairman, Hugh Dalton, M.P.
- „ 8.—"The Problem of Spiritual Authority in Western Civilisation." Professor Ernest Barker. Chairman, Professor H. J. Laski.
- „ 15.—"The Place of Women in Western Civilisation." Miss Rebecca West. Chairman, S. K. Ratcliffe.
- „ 22.—"The Future of Western Civilisation." G. Bernard Shaw. Chairman, Mrs. Philip Snowden.

The lectures were all given as arranged, the course again proving very successful. Financially the series was very satisfactory, the results being better than in any previous year. Most of the seats were sold out in course tickets before the lectures began, and, as usual, a large number of applications for single tickets had to be refused. The audiences throughout were large and appreciative, and included a substantial proportion of non-members of the Society. The plan of making a reduction in the charge of course tickets to members of the Society was continued, and has now become the established practice. Our thanks

are due to a large number of members of the Society and of the Fabian Nursery and New Fabian Group, who kindly acted as volunteer stewards and literature sellers at these great meetings.

On February 14th, 1929, we arranged a Housewarming Party and reception to celebrate our removal. The new house and offices were thrown open during the day, and were visited by a number of members from the provinces and others. At evening the Social was held in the Livingstone Hall, Broadway, Westminster, and was attended by over 200 members. Short speeches were given by Professor Laski, Sidney Webb, and Bernard Shaw, and a playlet by Mrs. Basil Hall, Mrs. A. E. Corner, and other friends. There was also some music and refreshments, and a most successful and enjoyable evening was spent by all who attended.

#### PUBLICATIONS.

The year 1928-29 has shown a considerable decline on its predecessor so far as relates to the sale of our publications and to the bookshop business generally. It will be seen that the receipts from sales are over £250 less than in 1927-28, while the sale and distribution of our tracts and leaflets fell from 27,000 last year to about 24,000 in the year just ended. This falling-off is very regrettable, and may be attributed perhaps, in part, at any rate, to the dislocation of business due to our removal, and partly also to the fact that fewer new publications were issued by us during the year than in the preceding twelve months.

Only three new tracts were issued during the last year under review, and no new book was added to the list. The three tracts published were as follows:—

Tract No. 225. Education Committees: Their Powers and Duties. By H. Samuels, M.A.

Tract No. 226. The League of Nations. By Bernard Shaw.

Tract No. 227. Labour's Foreign Policy. By Mrs. H. M. Swanwick.

The titles of the tracts explain themselves, and it is unnecessary to give fuller details here, as copies of each of them were sent out to every member. They have met with a good demand and a steady sale since publication.

Besides these new publications, no fewer than seven of our old tracts were reprinted, and where necessary revised during the year, as stocks were exhausted. Among them special reference ought to be made to the new and revised edition of Tract No. 148, "What a Health Committee can do," and No. 191, "Borough Councils: Their Powers and Duties," both in our Local Government series. These tracts, originally prepared in 1910 and 1920 respectively, were entirely revised and brought up-to-date before



reprinting. Owing to the numerous changes in Local Government Law, it was necessary to reset the whole of the tracts after revision.

As mentioned above, the sale and distribution of our tracts and leaflets, including the new ones referred to, shows a considerable decline on the figures of the previous year. The following are the figures for the past six years, as usual:—

Year ending March	1929.	1928.	1927.	1926.	1925.	1924.
Tracts ...	23,524	26,187	18,049	31,408	29,510	32,804
Leaflets ...	1,070	980	3,260	2,840	2,370	1,330
Totals ...	<u>24,594</u>	<u>27,167</u>	<u>21,309</u>	<u>34,248</u>	<u>31,880</u>	<u>34,134</u>

Of the other books and booklets published in former years, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Webb's "Decay of Capitalist Civilisation" continues to sell in good numbers. It was published in January, 1923, and the sales during the year under review amount to nearly 400 copies. "Fabian Essays" also continues to sell steadily, about 100 having been sold during the year. Professor H. J. Laski's essay on Karl Marx is still in demand, and about 250 copies were sold. The sales of "What to Read," have diminished, but of the supplement, "More books to Read," published in December, 1926, about 100 copies were sold. Bernard Shaw's "Common Sense of Municipal Trading" continues in steady demand, about 100 copies being disposed of during the year; but H. G. Well's "This Misery of Boots," in our edition at sixpence, now sells less frequently than formerly, owing to the fact that a cheap edition at twopence is now available.

The revised edition of E. R. Pease's "History of the Fabian Society," published three years ago, continues to meet with a steady demand. The other books and booklets on our list have now all been published for some years, and the sales are naturally much reduced. They include fourteen publications in all, six books and eight booklets, and the sales during the year have amounted to about 400 in all. The stock of these publications is now small in most cases, and the publications themselves getting out-of-date, so that they will probably not be reprinted when the present supply is exhausted.

The bookshop business continues to render useful service to many members and others in supplying books, old and new, on any subject whatsoever. A good many of our friends, together with a number of institutions in this and other countries, keep deposit accounts with us for this purpose. The proportion of our members who make use of the facilities thus offered for the supply of books, with or without deposit accounts, remains small, and ought to be considerably increased. As we now send books

post free in Great Britain if an order to the value of 10s. and upwards is given, country members would find it as cheap, and often as expeditious, to order through us as to buy books locally, and the Committee hope many more of our members will avail themselves of the services of the bookshop in this way. We decided last year to extend the offer of free postage for books of the value of 10s. and upwards to members making use of the C.O.D. system introduced with the Post Office in March, 1926. Thus, any members, by sending a postcard, can receive any book by return of post, either by an order on their deposit accounts, or C.O.D., at the published price, if the value of the order is 10s. or upwards.

Reference is made elsewhere in this report to our monthly publication, "The Local Government News," issued by us in conjunction with the Labour Party. The monthly sales are now over 1,500 copies. The figures of distribution of this journal, like those of our own monthly publication, *Fabian News*, are not included in any of the statistics given above.

#### THE SUMMER SCHOOL.

The twenty-second session of the Fabian Summer School was held in 1928 at the Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester, Glos., as in the previous year, and during the month of August as usual. Miss Hankinson was prevented by a slight accident from undertaking the duties of manageress for the first part of the session, and consequently Mrs. M. E. Beadle acted in that capacity throughout the four weeks the School was held. Cordial thanks are due to her for the entirely satisfactory working of all the arrangements at the School.

The School was opened on Saturday, July 28th, and continued till Saturday, August 25th. The number of visiting lecturers was very large, and it was originally intended to devote two weeks to special subjects and the other two to varied lectures of general interest. However, it proved impracticable to carry out this plan, as the lecturers invited could not fit in dates to meet our wishes, and the idea was consequently abandoned, and all four weeks devoted to general varied subjects.

The following is the list of Directors, lecturers, and subjects arranged, viz. :—

##### First week.

Director, G. R. Blanco White. Lecturers arranged, Eldon Moore, Frederick Whelen, Maurice Dobb, and Mrs. Blanco White.

##### Second week.

Director, Capt. Basil Hall, R.N. Lecturers arranged, S. K. Ratcliffe, Kenneth Lindsay, Father Vincent McNabb, Karl Walter and Hamilton Fyfe.

## Third week.

Director, F. W. Galton. Lecturers arranged, J. H. Simpson, J. W. Robertson Scott, Conal O'Riordan, R. C. Wallhead, M.P.

## Fourth week.

Director, Professor Edith Morley. Lecturers arranged, H. N. Brailsford, Professor G. Salvemini, Rt. Hon. Earl Russell, and G. D. H. Cole.

A few changes had to be made. Mr. Wallhead and Mr. Kenneth Lindsay were absent through illness, and their places were taken by Professor F. Tyson, of Pittsburgh, U.S.A., who lectured on "The New Industrial Revolution in the United States"; and by a debate on Conservatism *v.* Labour, in which Mr. W. S. Morrison, the prospective Conservative candidate, and Dr. T. Drummond Shiels, M.P., were the leading protagonists. Sir T. Davies, M.P. for Cirencester Division, and other visitors, were present and took part in the discussion. Mr. Hamilton Fyfe was also unable to attend to open the promised discussion on Labour and the Press, and his place was kindly taken by S. K. Ratcliffe, who lectured on Miss Mayo's book "Mother India."

Besides the lectures announced in the programme, the Director in each week gave one or more addresses as usual, and several of the visitors to the School also gave lectures, including Dr. Drummond Shiels, M.P., Dr. Ella Zilsel, of Vienna, Mr. W. Bennett, M.P., Colonel Maurice Spencer, C.M.G., and others. A large number of members also took part in the debates arranged for Wednesday evenings, the openers including J. Katz, R. B. Kerr, Miss E. Curry, Miss Goldie, Mr. A. J. Penty, Mrs. Butler, Mr. F. B. Kirkman, and others. One evening four young German students visiting the School gave short speeches on various aspects of the present situation in Germany, which were much appreciated. The usual entertainments and visits to places of interest in the neighbourhood were arranged and much enjoyed. There were a number of visitors from abroad, including America, Austria, Denmark, France, Germany and Japan.

The financial results of the School were satisfactory, though not quite so good as in the preceding year. The receipts covered all the expenses specially debited to the Summer School account, and left a balance of about £80, which sufficed to meet the overhead charges. The reduction on the previous year's takings was due mainly to the smaller number of visitors which was anticipated as a second year at the same place, and that an inland one, was expected to be less successful than the first year.

The plan of making a difference in charges between members and non-members of the Society was again adopted with success, and may now be regarded as a permanent feature of the arrangements. Our thanks are due to all those members and friends who assisted in rendering the School so successful.

The Annual Summer School reunion on this occasion was merged in the At Home and reception to celebrate our removal to new premises described elsewhere in this report.

#### THE PARLIAMENTARY BY-ELECTION FUND.

The balance in hand of the Parliamentary By-election Fund stood at the sum of £328 at the close of last year. In response to the paragraph in our last report inviting further contributions to the fund, several members sent subscriptions during the year, amounting to about £61, thus bringing the total of the fund up to £389. During the year under review there were no fewer than five contested Parliamentary by-elections, in which the Labour candidates were members of this Society, as follows:—

##### WEST CARMARTHENSHIRE, 28th June, 1928.

Lt.-Col. W. H. Jones (Lib.)	...	...	...	...	10,201
Daniel Hopkin (Lab.)	...	...	...	...	10,154
Sir C. Mansel (Con.)	...	...	...	...	8,361
Lib. Majority	...	...	...	...	47

NO CHANGE.

##### EPSOM, SURREY, 4th July, 1928.

Commander A. R. J. Southby (Con.)	...	...	...	...	13,364
S. P. Kerr (Lib.)	...	...	...	...	5,095
Miss H. M. Keynes (Lab.)	...	...	...	...	3,719
Con. Majority	...	...	...	...	8,269

NO CHANGE.

##### ABERDEEN NORTH, 17th August, 1928.

Capt. Wedgwood Benn (Lab.)	...	...	...	...	10,646
Dr. Laura Sandeman (Con.)	...	...	...	...	4,696
A. Ferguson (Comm.)	...	...	...	...	2,618
J. R. Rutherford (Lib.)	...	...	...	...	2,337
Lab. Majority	...	...	...	...	5,950

NO CHANGE.

##### BATTERSEA NORTH, 7th February, 1929.

Wm. Bennett (Lab.)	...	...	...	...	11,789
H. R. Selley (Con.)	...	...	...	...	11,213
V. C. Albu (Lib.)	...	...	...	...	2,858
Lab. Majority	...	...	...	...	576

LABOUR GAIN FROM CONSERVATIVE.

##### HOLLAND-WITH-BOSTON, LINCS, 21st March, 1929.

J. Blindell (Lib.)	...	...	...	...	13,000
G. R. Blanco White (Lab.)	...	...	...	...	9,294
A Van den Berg (Con.)	...	...	...	...	8,257
F. W. Dennis (Ind.)	...	...	...	...	3,541
Lib. Majority	...	...	...	...	3,706

LIBERAL GAIN FROM CONSERVATIVE.

Grants were made from the Parliamentary By-Election Fund in three of the five cases amounting to £50 each, thus reducing the balance of the fund in hand at the end of the year to £239. Members are reminded that this fund is open to receive special donations at any time, and that it is important to keep it in existence so as to enable prompt and effective assistance to be given to Fabians standing as Labour candidates at by-elections. It is hoped that there will be many further additions to the fund during the coming year.

Early in the year, two members who desire to remain anonymous, offered to present a motor-car to the Society for the use of one of the Fabian candidates for Parliament, preferably one of the women candidates. The Executive accepted the offer gratefully, and the car was purchased, and after consultation with the donors, lent to Miss H. M. Keynes for use in connection with her candidature for Epsom. After the by-election there in July Miss Keynes was adopted as candidate for the Horsham Division, and the car was again lent to her for use in that Division. The donors of the car have provided all the necessary funds to meet the expense of upkeep, insurance, etc., of the car, and our cordial thanks are due to them for this generous and welcome help.

#### LOCAL GOVERNMENT INQUIRY BUREAU AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

##### NEWS.

The arrangements made for carrying on this department of our work for the publication and issue of the "Local Government News" have continued to develop along the lines described in last year's report.

It will be remembered that in that report the Society announced its intention of carrying its Local Government work a step further by the formation of a Bureau of Municipal Research and Information for the guidance of local candidates, councillors, officers, and other persons who were interested in Local Government. It was proposed that members of the Association, in return for an annual subscription of 5s., should be entitled to receive answers to any Local Government questions which they might put, together with any information on Local Government matters which they might require.

The Society's suggestion met with a gratifying response, and the Bureau is already able to report a subscribing membership of 127. A large number of inquiries and requests for information have been received and dealt with from over seventy members of the Association, and various documents published by the Society which relate to Local Government have been circulated.

The Society still feels that there exists a much larger body of persons who are concerned with Local Government who would welcome the opportunity of obtaining accurate and up-to-date information on Local Government problems. We would, therefore, ask members to do what they can to bring the scheme to the notice of any persons likely to be interested.

The publication of "The Local Government News" has been maintained during the year under review without change. W. A. Robson has continued to carry on his work as Editor of "The Local Government News" and as adviser to the Inquiry Bureau. Although the demand of "The Local Government News" shows a slight increase on the figures (1,500) recorded last year, we have not yet been able to secure a return to the total figure (over 2,000) reached prior to May, 1926. There is, however, a steady demand for the paper, and the number and range of the inquiries received from subscribers, which are not included in the figures for the Bureau, continue to increase. One of the most encouraging features of our work in this department has been the increasing measure of assistance by way of advice and information which we have been able to render to Labour Groups in the provinces and on the various local bodies.

The local government work of the Society is still, however, carried on at considerable expense over and above the receipts from sales, etc. Up to last year this expense had been met by grants from the Atkinson Trust and by special donations from members of the Society and friends. The grants from the Atkinson Fund could not be continued indefinitely, and the Labour Party's financial position renders relief from that quarter impossible. Meanwhile, the Society is each year faced with a serious financial problem in regard to the continuance of its local government work. Last year we were only enabled to continue by the generosity of a member of the Society, and this year, also, another member has enabled us to continue by coming forward with a liberal donation for this purpose. Satisfactory as this is, the future is in no way safeguarded, and the impracticability of making plans for more than a year ahead is, in fact, a considerable handicap to the proper development of the work. We should, therefore, particularly welcome special donations towards the cost from any members and friends who are interested in local government problems.

#### BOOK BOXES AND AFFILIATED SOCIETIES.

As anticipated in our last Annual Report, the demand for the loan of Book Boxes has not increased, and remains at a lower point than in any recent year. Most of the organisations availing themselves of the book box scheme are Trade Union branches and Co-operative Societies, with a sprinkling of branches of the Workers' Educational Association, a few workmen's clubs, and other miscellaneous bodies. Even of these the demand comes mainly from the small towns and larger villages where public libraries do not at present exist, and not from the larger cities and towns which possess such institutions.

In view of the continued depression in the staple trades of the North, we considered it undesirable to incur the expense of print-

ing and issuing the book box circular on a wide scale, but it was revised and reprinted, and the subscription reduced to 10s. per annum, and sent out to a selected list of local organisations in November, 1928. This had the result of adding a few new subscribers to the book box scheme, and also a few to the list of affiliated societies, but the response up to the close of the year in March was not very great. The matter will be considered again in the coming year, and a fresh effort made to secure renewed support for this branch of our work.

The scheme for affiliating societies desirous of being connected with us in a permanent way, as well as of borrowing book boxes, also suffered a set-back for the same reasons as those described above. At the close of last year there were fifty-four societies so affiliated. During the year these were diminished by a dozen or so withdrawals, whose loss was nearly made up by new affiliations, bring the total on March 31st to fifty-two. As most of the affiliated societies are Trade Union branches, this falling-off in numbers is not a cause for surprise. Moreover, a number of those which have withdrawn are societies or branches of Unions connected with the Civil Service, who considered that their withdrawal was rendered necessary by the provisions of the Trade Unions and Trade Disputes Act of 1927. The losses due to this cause, however, are now at an end, as practically all those affiliated societies affected by the Act have now ceased their affiliation. We hope, therefore, that the coming year will show an improvement in this respect and that the number of societies will be considerably increased during 1929-30.

The following are the figures for the present year, and the past four years:—

Borrowers.	1929.	1928.	1927.	1926.	1925.
I.L.P. Branches ... ..	5	4	18	23	15
Co-operative Societies ... ..	15	6	6	7	9
Trade Unions ... ..	29	5	11	—	—
Labour Parties ... ..	12	10	13	25	27
Trades Councils ... ..	2	2	2	8	5
Miscellaneous ... ..	20	14	8	25	25
Affiliated Societies ... ..	—	54	68	87	78
Totals ... ..	83	95	126	175	159

The affiliated societies which in previous years had been shown separately are now distributed over the other organisations under their respective headings. It was felt that to show merely the fifty-two affiliated societies in a group without classification was not sufficiently informative, and hence the change from the previous practice.

No special donations were received during the year for book box work, and we were thus unable to add further to the supply of boxes, though we had some of the old ones repaired and re-

Dr.

## REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR YEAR

								LAST YEAR.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Books and Publications bought ...	...	£542	7	0½				545	8	6½
Printing and advertising Tracts ...	...	170	6	2	712	13	2½	181	2	7
Printing <i>Fabian News</i> ...	...	110	3	6				120	13	0
General Printing ...	...	32	16	6	143	0	0	33	14	6
<hr/>										
Affiliation Fees and Grants :—										
Labour Party ...	...	46	10	6				2	17	6
London Labour Party ...	...	5	3	10				5	13	0
Sundry ...	...	5	10	8	57	5	0	10	0	
<hr/>										
Book Boxes, Books and other expenses, <i>less</i> receipts ...	...				31	17	2	30	1	2
Office Expenses :—										
Salaries ...	...	1398	19	8				1417	9	9
Rent, Rates, etc., <i>less</i> receipts for sub-letting ...	...	225	5	2				274	17	1
Housekeeper, Coals, Light, <i>less</i> refunds ...	...	257	11	0½				283	17	5
Postage, Parcels, and Telephone ...	...	183	12	0				186	9	5
Stationery, despatch of <i>News</i> ...	...	199	9	4	2264	17	2½	192	15	7½
<hr/>										
Expenses of Kingsway Hall Lectures ...	...	378	11	8				362	11	8
„ „ Essex Hall Lectures ...	...	44	14	6	423	6	2	43	5	0
<hr/>										
Summer School, 1928 ...	...				690	15	1½	790	18	2
Common Room, Expenditure on Provisions ...	...				72	16	10	72	19	3½
“Local Government News” and Bureau Expenses ...	...				557	12	10	506	18	5
Expenses of House Warming Party ...	...				19	3	6			
„ „ Removal ...	...				279	16	5			
Credit Balance, 1927-8 ...	...							615	16	10
<hr/>										
					5253	3	5½			

## PARLIAMENTARY

Grants to Candidates ...	...	£150	0	0	50	0	0
Balance forward ...	...	239	18	2½	328	15	8½
					£389	18	2½

## PROPERTY

Freehold House ...	...	3500	0	0			
					3500	0	0

## BALANCE SHEET,

Deposit Accounts at Credit ...	...	235	3	9½	74	10	11½
Tulloch, Barr and Davies Publishing Fund ...	...	158	3	7	158	3	7
Summer School Reserve ...	...	250	0	0	250	0	0
Parliamentary By-Election Fund ...	...	239	18	2½	328	15	8½
“Local Government News” Subscriptions in advance ...	...	23	15	4	148	16	4
Accounts due and unpaid ...	...	182	5	4	186	18	4
Parliamentary Election Fund ...	...	30	2	0			
Summer School 1929 receipts less expenses ...	...			12	4		
Overdraft at Bank ...	...	208	13	11			
					£1328	14	6

I have examined the above accounts and compared them with the books and vouchers of the Society, and I find the same to be correct. The script representing the investments, and all information asked for in connection with the accounts, have been furnished to me.

31st May, 1929.

JAMES BACON.





newed. The demand for boxes involved us in considerable expense for new books, many of the borrowers having had boxes before and requiring fresh supplies. During the year we expended about £32 on this account, and, in the absence of any special donations, this had to come out of our general receipts. Though we should like to add many more new books to the library, we cannot see our way to any increased expenditure on this account unless special donations for this purpose are forthcoming from members and friends.

#### COMMON ROOM AND LENDING LIBRARY.

The two rooms provided for the purpose of Members' Common Room at 25, Tothill Street, and subsequently at 11, Dartmouth Street, continue to meet with satisfactory support. The Common Room is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. (Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.), and light refreshments may be obtained on the premises.

Members of the Society have borrowed a good many books from the library during the year, though in this direction also there is a decline from the preceding year, owing probably to the change of address and the interval for removal when the Common Room and Library were closed. The diminished use by members of the Common Room is naturally reflected in the smaller number of books borrowed, but during the year about a hundred members borrowed about 400 books, so far as our records show. These figures relate only to books borrowed and taken away by borrowers, and not to those made use of in the Common Room itself. We should be glad to see a further substantial increase on these figures in future years. The Library is at the service freely of all our members and associates, who may borrow books from its shelves whenever the Common Room is open without formality beyond recording the books taken in the register provided for the purpose. Members residing out of London and unable to call and borrow books personally may borrow them by post on application to the office and by repaying the cost of postage both ways. Our thanks are due to several members who have kindly presented books to the Library during the year.

#### FINANCE.

The foregoing report and the accounts annexed will show that while the year has been an active one, the financial results have been disappointing. We began the year with a deficit brought forward of £282, and the result of the year's working is a loss of £297, so that at its close we have a net total deficit of £579. No doubt this unsatisfactory result is partly due to the expense and loss inseparable from our removal, which will not recur again as we are now the freeholders of our offices. Nevertheless, it is very regrettable and a source of some anxiety to the

Executive Committee, who would welcome any special donations or gifts towards reducing the substantial deficit.

Taking the accounts item by item, and beginning with the revenue side, it will be seen that members' subscriptions are £40 down on the previous year. This is probably a temporary matter arising from the dislocation of business in the autumn. Associates' subscriptions remain nearly the same as last year, but subscriptions and donations from non-members show a decrease of £30 due to the non-receipt of one special donation during the year. The receipts from the sale of publications show a heavy decrease of £270 on the year, and are much below the average, owing partly, no doubt, to our removal. Advertisement receipts are about the same as last year, and the Book Box fees are again slightly reduced and reach the lowest figure for some years for reasons explained in an earlier paragraph of this report. The receipts for the Kingsway Hall lectures are nearly £140 more than last year, and are very satisfactory, exceeding the total of any previous year; and the Essex Hall lecture receipts are also nearly £20 more than last year, reflecting the larger attendances at these meetings. The Summer School fees were £160 below those of last year, due to the smaller number of visitors and the shorter session. Receipts from letting Fabian Hall are much reduced, including only the six months, March to September, and this item will disappear from our accounts in future. The Common Room receipts are also slightly less owing to the fact that the rooms were closed for two months during removal, etc. "The Local Government News" income shows a considerable decrease owing to the fact that the grant previously given by the Atkinson Fund was not available in the current year.

On the expenditure side of the account it will be seen that the figures show little variation from the preceding year. Books and publications and printing and advertising tracts are about £20 lower, reflecting smaller sales modified by cost of reprinting many of our old tracts, and purchasing many new books to stock the new premises. Printing "Fabian News" and general printing are also a little less than last year due to fewer 8-page issues. Affiliation fees are much increased, as we paid two years' fees to the Labour Party during the current year. The expenses of book boxes, etc., are about the same as those shown in the preceding year, reflecting the continued small demand in this direction. The cost of rent, rates, etc., is diminished owing to the fact that the new premises are less costly than the old ones, and this item will show a slightly larger reduction in a full year. The expenses of Kingsway Hall and Essex Hall lectures are almost exactly the same as in the previous year. The Summer School expenses are considerably lower owing to the smaller number of visitors, but leave a satisfactory balance of about £80 to cover office and overhead charges. "The Local Government News" expenses are

increased by about £50, representing payment for two more issues during the year. The other items vary slightly only, and call for no special remark. The balance of the Parliamentary by-election fund is reduced to £239, modified by the receipt of £61 from donors during the year in response to the notice in the last Annual Report. A new item appears in the accounts for the first time, being the cost of the freehold house and its adaptation and repair, and this will be a permanent feature in our accounts in future years.

The net result of the financial operations of the year, as already mentioned, is to increase the adverse balance by £297 16s. 10d., and this is unsatisfactory, even though it is due mainly to temporary causes as already explained. The real weakness of the Society's finances remain in the general low average subscription paid by its members. Twenty years ago the report shows that 1,200 members paid about £600 per annum in subscriptions, an average roughly of 10s. per member. To-day the report shows that 1,800 members paid about £1,200 in subscriptions during the year, an average of about 13s. each. This small increase, welcome as it is, by no means corresponds with the increased cost of everything the Society purchases and does. Printing, which is the largest item in our expenditure, costs on an average nearly twice what it did twenty years ago; and all the other items of expense are certainly not less than 60 to 70 per cent. higher than they were in 1907. This is the root of much of our difficulty, and we venture to hope that members will bear this in mind when renewing their subscriptions and increase them where possible in accordance with their means. The income from subscriptions is the mainstay of the Society and its work, and it is to growth in this direction that we must look for improvement in our financial position and for increased activity in future years. Our members are requested to do their part, both by their own subscriptions and by efforts to secure new members and adherents for the Society amongst their friends, and by proposing suitable candidates for election whenever possible.

A. EMIL DAVIES.  
F. LAWSON DODD.  
BARBARA DRAKE.  
H. FINER.  
F. W. GALTON.  
G. T. GARRATT.  
BASIL HALL.  
H. HUMPHREYS.  
HELEN KEYNES.  
H. J. LASKI

SUSAN LAWRENCE.  
JOHN H. MAYNARD.  
EDWARD R. PEASE.  
S. K. RATCLIFFE.  
W. A. ROBSON.  
HARRY SNELL.  
R. H. TAWNEY.  
SIDNEY WEBB.  
BEATRICE WEBB.  
G. R. BLANCO WHITE.

Executive Committee for the year 1928-29.

## FABIAN WOMEN'S GROUP.

### Annual Report, 1928-1929.

The Annual Meeting of the Group for the year ending March, 1929, was held on Wednesday, March 13th, at 5 p.m., at 25, Tothill Street, S.W.1., Mrs. Drake in the Chair in the absence of Mrs. Tawney through illness. The Annual Report and Balance Sheet for the past year were received and approved.

**Executive Committee.**—The following members were declared elected: Dr. Bentham, Mrs. Corner, Mrs. Drake, Miss Smyth, Mrs. Tawney, Miss Evans, Mrs. McKillop, Miss Keynes, Miss Sayle, Miss Smith Rose, Mrs. Lynch, Mrs. Young, Mrs. Malone and Miss Taylor.

At the following Executive Committee meeting, Miss Keynes was elected Chairman for the coming year.

**Annual Dinner, 1927-28,** occurred too late to be included in the Annual Report for 1927-28 to which it properly belongs and is, therefore, reported on here:—

The Annual Dinner was held at the Court House Restaurant, W.1, on Wednesday, March 28th, 1928, with Mrs. Sidney Webb as the guest of the evening. In the absence of Mrs. Tawney, Mrs. Marjory Pease, J.P., at the special request of the Committee, took the Chair. The dinner was attended by 107 guests, many of them old members of the Group and of the Society.

**1928-29 Course Series of Lectures.**—In view of the woman's vote, it was decided to arrange a course series of lectures on the Changes in the Position of Women in the 20th Century, the lectures to take place in one of the smaller rooms of Caxton Hall on the second Tuesday in the month, beginning on Tuesday, November 13th, and ending on Tuesday, March 12th, 1929. The new venture was a great success both in the number of persons attending and in the general interest in the work of the Society which was aroused in the Press and elsewhere.

**Annual Dinner, 1928-29,** was held on Tuesday, March 19th, at the Florence Restaurant, W.1, in honour of Miss Lawrence, M.P., and the following Fabian women Parliamentary candidates: Dr. Ethel Bentham, Dr. Churchill, Mrs. Ayrton Gould, Mrs. H. J. Massingham, Dr. Phillips, Miss Picton-Turberville, Mrs. Rackham, Mrs. Townshend, and Miss Keynes, Miss Keynes in the Chair. The dinner was attended by 100 guests.

**Poor Man's Lawyer Work.**—Owing to the fact that there had been a considerable falling-off in the number of persons attending for advice during the year, it was regretfully decided to discontinue the scheme. Weekly sittings had been held during the year, and the total attendance had numbered twenty.

**Annual Labour Women's Conference** was held at Portsmouth from the 16th to the 17th June, and was attended by Dr. Bentham, Mrs. Corner, Mrs. Drake, Miss Keynes, and Miss Taylor as delegates from the Fabian Society.

**Labour Party Election Fund.**—As the result of an appeal issued by the Chairman and Committee to Group members in July, 1928, a cheque for £12 19s. 6d. was forwarded to Mr. Arthur Henderson. This sum was subsequently increased by a donation of £2 2s., bringing the total amount up to £15 1s. 6d.

**Standing Joint Committee and Women's Advisory Council.**—Mrs. Malone continues to represent the Group on the S.J.C. and Miss Keynes on the W.A.C. of the League of Nations Union.

**Consultative Committee of Women's Organisations.**—Affiliation to this body was discontinued in November of 1928.

**Membership** has decreased slightly within the year, there being 91 members and 11 associates for 1928-29, as compared with 101 members and 14 associates for the previous year.

DOROTHY TAYLOR, Secretary.

## REPORT OF THE FABIAN NURSERY FOR THE YEAR 1928-1929.

The Nursery has pursued its activities during the past year with at least a moderate degree of success. The gradual influx of new members, a slow though steady process, has been offset by the falling off of some of the oldest members, so that the membership remains practically stationary at the rather low level of 25.

The following were elected to the Committee at the Annual General Meeting: F. W. Hooper (Secretary), R. A. Saunders (Treasurer), Miss S. Acheson, Miss R. Shaw, H. Palmer. R. A. Saunders found himself unable for business reasons to take an active part on the Committee, which later co-opted Miss P. Saunders and appointed her to act as treasurer until the Annual General Meeting.

Meetings have been held at least once a month in the Fabian Rooms. The meetings held in the last three months of 1928 dealt with certain general principles and large problems connected with Socialism. It was considered appropriate, in view of the General Election, that the subsequent spring meetings should be devoted to detailed consideration of the matter of immediate policy, with reference to the Labour Party programme. The following papers were read: Equality of Income, by S. Kersey; The Philosophy of Modern German Socialism, by Dr. Freund; Socialism and Marriage, by A. E. Appelbe; Derating, by H. Palmer; Labour and the Social Services, by Miss S. Acheson; Labour's Banking and Currency Policy, by F. W. Hooper; Labour and International Affairs, by G. A. Dempster; The Law and the Poor, by A. E. Appelbe.

At the beginning of the year the Nursery offered its services to the Secretary of the London Labour Party for the purpose of addressing local Labour Parties upon various items in the party programme. The offer was gratefully accepted, and a board of speakers, each of whom made a special study of one subject, was immediately enrolled. Several members were thus enabled to gain some valuable experience of public speaking; it is likely that they also gained something even more valuable from the contact with men and women to whom the Labour Party programme was no matter of merely abstract interest, but one of urgent personal concern.

There have been two Sunday rambles. On one of these occasions members were entertained at tea at St. John's School, Leatherhead, by H. D. Barnes, a nursing and a master at the School, who afterwards read a very suggestive essay, "What shall we do with the public schools?" which led to a lively discussion of the merits and failings of the public school system.

During the weeks preceding the General Election, several members took for the first time an active part in an election campaign.

The Nursery exists for young people who are sufficiently interested in

politics to feel the need of an unprejudiced scientific basis for their opinions. It exists to provide an intimate circle within which its members may enjoy the pleasure of discussion upon social questions, free from the restraint of more experienced, or "adult," company. It is, in short, a **training ground** for the scientific attitude in politics. By its very nature therefore, the Nursery is always losing its older members, many of whom pass on to a more advanced work, and it is a most important part of the Committee's business to keep a look-out for new recruits. The Committee appeals to members of the Fabian Society to assist it in its quest for new members by introducing their young friends to the Secretary of the Nursery, who will gladly supply particulars and rules of membership. Hon. Secretary, F. W. Hooper, 34, Castlebar Park, Ealing, W.5.

### NEW FABIAN GROUP.

March, 1928, to March, 1929.

This year has been a successful one for the New Fabian Group. Membership has increased from 46 to 72 members. At the end of the financial year there was a balance in hand of £8 18s. 5d.

Two meetings were held each month except in August and September. These were well attended. Among the most successful were addresses by Dr. H. Dalton on "Labour and the Nation"; W. Meakin on "Rationalisation and Employment"; Maurice Dobb on "Communist Policy"; Dr. Morris Ginsberg on "The Claims of Eugenics"; M. A. Abrams on "Unemployment"; R. B. Frazer on "Labour in Australia"; F. W. Galton on "Election Possibilities and Realities"; Father Vincent McNabb on "Right and Wrong Organisation"; Leonard Woolf on "The Hilton Young Report"; and a series of three addresses by C. M. Lloyd, Dr. H. Finer and W. A. Robson on "Recent Tendencies in Local Government Policy." The Group also organised a debate with the "London Young Liberals' Federation," and a discussion on "An Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism," which Mr. Bernard Shaw very kindly attended.

**Public Speaking.**—This side of the Group's activities has been extended this year. W. H. McKenna, R. B. Frazer, J. E. D. Bradfield and Honor Scott have been their most active speakers.

**Further Activities.**—R. B. Frazer with the help of a committee has been engaged in writing a pamphlet on Fabian Policy, which is intended to appeal to young persons who might join the Fabian Society.

An active Study Group has been investigating the conditions of particular industries, with special reference to the possibilities of employment and investment. The Group held a successful weekend in May.

The fourth Annual Meeting was held at 11, Dartmouth Street, S.W.1, on April 19th, 1929, at 8 p.m., when the Annual Report and the Balance Sheet were presented and approved. The following Executive Committee was elected: M. A. Abrams, E. A. Davies, D. Gandy, W. H. McKenna, O. Berkelbach **¶**, d Sprengel, W. A. Robson and C. M. Skepper.

C. M. SKEPPER, Hon. Secretary.

## RULES.

### DEFINITIONS.

1.—The words "due notice" shall mean that the notice is received by the General Secretary before the 23rd day of any month for publication in the next issue of *FABIAN NEWS*, or as provided in Rule 9, Clause 2.

2.—A public meeting shall mean a meeting to which non-members are admitted. A private meeting shall mean a meeting confined to members of the Society.

### THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

3.—Before the Annual Meeting to be held not later than June, the Society shall elect by ballot a Treasurer and an Executive Committee of twenty-one members to hold office for one year. Due notice shall be given of all nominations for these offices. Voting papers shall be sent to all members, together with the April number of the *NEWS*, and they shall be returned to the General Office on or before April 20th. Scrutineers shall be appointed by the Society, whose duty it shall be to open the ballot-box, to count the votes, and to certify to the General Secretary before April 23rd, for publication in the *NEWS*, the number of votes polled. The new Executive shall come into office on April 25th. In case of Easter occurring about the dates named, the Executive may alter them, giving due notice thereof; but no alteration shall exceed seven days. In case of a tie, the candidate who has been longest a member of the Society shall be elected. Any vacancies which occur during the year shall be filled by election after due notice, but only in the event of the number of the Committee falling below nineteen. Five members shall be a quorum. Any member absent from four consecutive meetings of the Committee or its standing Sub-Committees without obtaining leave of absence, shall be deemed, upon a resolution to that effect being passed by the Executive Committee, to have vacated his seat on the Committee or the Sub-Committee.

4.—The Executive Committee shall conduct the general business of the Society, appoint the paid officers, prepare and publish tracts, subject to Rule 10, and appoint all delegates to represent the Society. It shall constitute three standing sub-committees to deal with (1) Organizing and Propaganda; (2) Publishing; and (3) Finance and General Purposes.

### MEETINGS AND COMMITTEES.

5.—In addition to the Annual Meeting, two private meetings shall be held, one in the first and one in the last quarter of each year, provided that if due notice is not given for any proposal for any such private meeting it need not be held.

6.—Committees for special purposes shall be appointed by the Executive Committee, but notice of such committees (exclusive of those dealing with purely Executive business) shall be published beforehand in the *FABIAN NEWS*, or at private meetings, in order that any member desirous to serve on such committees may have the opportunity of sending in his or her name for consideration by the Executive.

### ORDER OF BUSINESS.

7.—Resolutions of which due notice has been given shall be placed on the agenda of the first private meeting of the Society after such notice has been published; provided that when any resolution has been discussed and voted on, and within twelve months of the date thereof notice is given of a resolution on the same subject, the Executive Committee shall be authorized, if they think fit, to defer placing the resolution on the agenda for any meeting until the expiration of the said twelve months. Resolutions shall not be moved without due notice, except after a vote of urgency has been carried. Business may be taken at a public meeting, but only with the consent of the chairman previously obtained.

8.—Any resolution, not affecting the constitution of the Society, its Rules or its Basis, may be declared urgent by a majority of three-fourths of the members present in a private meeting of not less than twenty-five members, and, if so declared, shall be discussed and voted upon forthwith.

9.—When a requisition signed by not less than fifty members is presented to the General Secretary, calling for a private meeting to discuss any resolution, the



Executive Committee shall order the resolution to be printed in *FABIAN NEWS*, and shall appoint for the meeting the earliest convenient date thereafter.

When a requisition of urgency, signed by not less than one hundred members, is presented to the General Secretary, calling for a private meeting to discuss a specific notice of motion, he shall summon such meeting for a date within fourteen days from the receipt thereof, and shall within seven days notify the same to all members, by circular or otherwise.

#### TRACTS.

10.—Except in cases of emergency, notice shall be given by the Executive Committee, either in *FABIAN NEWS* or by special circular, of any tracts proposed to be issued in the name of the Society, and every such tract shall be submitted to the members at a private meeting, and shall only be published when adopted by that meeting.

In case of emergency a tract may be adopted at any private meeting upon a vote of urgency.

Tracts bearing the name of the author may be issued by the Executive Committee on behalf of the Society.

#### PARLIAMENTARY CANDIDATES.

11.—Except in cases of emergency, and apart from any action in connection with any specially subscribed Parliamentary Fund, the Executive Committee shall not undertake responsibility to the Labour Party for any parliamentary candidate without the sanction of the majority of the members voting, ascertained by a postal vote.

#### MEMBERSHIP.

12.—Every candidate must sign a declaration that he accepts the Basis of the Society, and must make a contribution to the funds before election, the amount to be returned if he is not elected.

The names of all candidates shall be printed in *FABIAN NEWS*, and candidates shall afterwards be submitted for election, which shall be by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

13.—Members who do not take part in the work of the Society and subscribe to its funds during one year may be removed from the list of members at the discretion of the Executive Committee.

14.—A member may be expelled from the Society by a vote of more than three-fourths of the members present at a meeting of not less than fifty members. Due notice of the motion shall be given to the General Secretary; but such notice shall not be valid and shall not be printed in *FABIAN NEWS* without the sanction of the Executive Committee.

#### SUBSCRIPTION.

15.—Members are expected to subscribe annually to the funds of the Society in accordance with their means.

#### ASSOCIATES.

16.—Any person may become an Associate by signing a statement that he is in general sympathy with and desirous of promoting the work of the Society.

Associates must pay an annual subscription of at least 10s., and are entitled to attend all the meetings not expressly confined to members, and to receive all the ordinary publications. But they are not entitled to vote at meetings of the Society or to take any other part in the management of its affairs.

#### GROUPS.

17.—Members resident in or near London may, for the purpose of local work, be divided by the Executive Committee into Groups according to the localities in which they reside. Each Group shall elect a Secretary, who shall keep a list of the Group members, and shall organize the work of the Group.

The Group Secretary will be removable by a vote of the Group, at a meeting attended by not less than one-third of the Group members, or by a vote of the Society after due notice has been given.

A meeting of any Group may be summoned either by the Group Secretary or by the General Secretary by order of the Executive Committee.

A Group may appoint delegates to any body dealing specially with the affairs of the Group area.

### *B. Local Groups.*

1. Where no local Fabian Society exists, the Executive Committee, co-operating as far as possible with Fabian Societies elsewhere, may establish Fabian local groups in any locality on the initiative of any local Fabians.

2. Such groups shall be constituted of any five or more Fabians, and shall have a status similar to that of local groups within the London area.

Groups for particular subjects may be formed in accordance with such regulations as the Executive Committee may from time to time determine.

### ANNUAL REPORT.

18.—The Annual Report and Balance Sheet, made up to March 31st, shall be sent to members at least seven days before the Annual Meeting.

### ALTERATION OF RULES AND BASIS.

19.—No alteration of, or addition to, the Rules shall be made without due notice; or at any meeting other than the Annual Meeting except by a vote of more than three-fourths of the members present at a Meeting of not less than fifty members.

No alteration of, or addition to, the Basis shall be made until it has been adopted, after due notice given, by a vote of more than three-fourths of the members present at an Annual Meeting, and confirmed by a similar vote at a Special Private Meeting held after an interval of not less than six months.

### REFERENDUM.

20.—The Executive Committee may at any time refer any question to the decision of the whole Society, the voting to be by letter.

Any mover of a resolution which, at a meeting of the Society, has been supported by not less than one hundred members may claim a poll of the whole Society, the voting to be by letter. If an amendment is carried, and the original resolution is therefore not put, the mover thereof shall have the right to demand before the next business that the chairman take a count of the members who support the resolution, and if this number is not less than one hundred, the mover may claim a referendum as aforesaid.

## BY-LAWS FOR LOCAL FABIAN SOCIETY AND FABIAN GROUP ORGANISATION.

### I.—THE COUNTY OF LONDON.

1. Any ten or more members may, with the approval of the Executive Committee form themselves into a local group.

2. Every such group shall consist of members of the Society in its area, and such other Fabians as it may elect; it may elect its own associates, provided that associateship of a group shall not, as such, confer the privileges of associateship of the Society.

3. Every local group shall elect a secretary, who shall be the medium of communication between the group and the Executive Committee.

4. Every local secretary shall forward a report to the Executive Committee at least once a quarter.

5. Every such group shall be bound by all resolutions of the parent Society.

6. The Executive Committee, co-operating with existing local groups, shall constantly work for the establishment of local groups in districts where such do not exist.

### II.—SPECIAL SUBJECT GROUPS.

The regulations for Special Subject Groups shall be the same as those for local groups in so far as applicable, except that

Special Subject Groups shall elect their own members from amongst the members of the Society.

### III.—THE PROVINCES.

#### *A. Local Fabian Societies.*

1. Local Fabian Societies shall adopt the Fabian Basis, or some Basis which has been sanctioned by the Executive Committee of the parent Society, and all their members shall sign the said Basis.

2. Subject to the above, local Fabian Societies shall enjoy complete autonomy as to the election of their officers, members, and associates, the conduct of their business, and the disposal of their funds, and shall not be bound by any resolution of the parent Society.

3. The reports of the local Societies shall be inserted in *FABIAN NEWS*, subject to the exigencies of space and the general control of the editor.

## SUMMER SCHOOL BY-LAWS.

### I.

The management of the Fabian Summer School shall be entrusted to a separate Summer School Committee, to be appointed in December of each year as follows :

Seven members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee from its own number, and one member by each of the following bodies : the Women's Group the Fabian Nursery and the New Fabian Group, as far as possible from persons who have attended during a session of the Summer School.

The General Secretary of the Society shall be a member of the Committee ex-officio and shall be the secretary of the Committee.

The Manager of the School shall be appointed annually by the Summer School Committee, and shall be a member of the Committee ex-officio.

The Committee shall elect a chairman from its own number, and shall have power to co-opt not more than three members, being members of the Society or of a local society.

### II.

The Summer School Committee shall obtain the approval of the Executive Committee (a) for its annual estimate of expenditure ; (b) for any supplementary estimates that may become necessary ; (c) for the person whom it is proposed to appoint as Director, who shall be responsible to the Summer School Committee ; and (d) for the general scheme of lectures to be arranged ; but shall, subject to these limitations, itself exercise the whole executive management of the School.

### III.

The invitation and admission of guests at any meeting of the School, the duration of their stay, the arrangements for lectures and other proceedings at the School, the appointment of the necessary staff, and all housekeeping and other details of management shall be entrusted entirely to the discretion of the Summer School Committee.

### IV.

Separate accounts shall be kept for the School, which shall be presented by the Executive Committee to the annual meeting of the Society, together with a brief general report on its progress. Such accounts and report, and any matter of administration for which the Executive Committee is responsible, shall be open to question or discussion at the annual meeting, or by due notice at any other business meeting of the Society.

## LOCAL FABIAN SOCIETIES.

**Aberdeen.**—The Society consists of 48 members and 2 associates, and meetings were held weekly on Saturday evening from October to April. The Rt. Hon. Wedgwood Benn and W. H. Martin, Esq., C.A. (Labour Candidate for South Aberdeen) each gave addresses on two occasions, to which the public was invited. At the other meetings interesting topics were dealt with, sometimes by our own members, and sometimes by non-members. Attendances throughout were small but appreciative, and included a small proportion of non-members of the Society.

Two social evenings were held during the season, and both proved highly enjoyable functions.

The Society is affiliated to the local Labour Party. A special collection on behalf of the appalling distress prevailing in the mining areas resulted in the sum of £5 10s. being handed over to the National Fund through the medium of the local Fund. Hon. Secretary, R. A. Raffan, 124, Walker Road, Aberdeen.

**Birmingham.**—The Birmingham Fabian Society held twelve meetings during the session 1928-29, the outstanding one having for its subject a paper by Mr. Bache Matthews, the Director of the Repertory Theatre, on "The Adding Machine." It was an inspired Socialist address. Another very interesting evening was given to a paper by the Liberal Parliamentary Candidate on "Why I am not a Socialist," and a German student was very informing on industrial conditions in Germany.

The membership of the Society has slightly increased, and the Treasurer showed a credit balance on the year's working.

The meetings next session will be held in the Shakespeare Rooms, Edmund Street, the Hon. Secretary being Mrs. Hubert Humphreys, 78, Cambridge Road, Kings Heath, Birmingham, and the Hon. Treasurer, Miss Katherine Greenwood.

**Dundee.**—The Dundee Fabian Society is making progress. We hope, now that the local labour situation has been settled definitely by the result of the General Election, to get a move on. In the coming autumn and winter we propose to have a good syllabus of educational and social events, and having reached the fringe of our capital debt expenditure, I look forward to building up a good society here.

Fabian Hall, JOHN M. SCOTT, Secretary.  
16, South Union Street, Dundee.

**Edinburgh.**—Sixty members and 3 associates. Held fortnightly meetings throughout the winter, which were well attended. Gave 23 lectures to other societies. Have been closely associated with the Labour Party and have representatives on all the local Labour organisations. Have two members of Parliament for divisions in the city and one Town Councillor. Two members contested other constituencies at the General Election unsuccessfully. Pretty well represented in the new Labour Government—the Rt. Hon. William Graham, LL.D., is President of the Board of Trade, and Dr. T. Drummond Shiels is Under-Secretary for India, Mr. J. C. Watson is Solicitor-General, and Mr. Robert Gibson is Deputy Lord Advocate. Have just completed our 21st continuous session in a healthy condition, and very much alive. Hon. Secretary: D. B. Mackay, 3, Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh.

**Glasgow.**—The Society is still in existence, and hoping to resume activities. Secretary, Alexander McGillivray, 79, West Regent Street, Glasgow.

**Hornchurch and Upminster.**—Hon. Secretary, S. Wilkins, 24, Curtis Road, Hornchurch, Essex.

**Ipswich.**—Secretary, W. Calver, 16, Philip Road, Ipswich, Suffolk.

**Liverpool.**—Thirty-seventh Annual Report shows a good and useful year of work accomplished. Instead of holding lecture meetings for own members—partly on account of the difficulty of obtaining prominent lecturers and the expense involved in arranging such meetings—debates, etc., were held with non-Socialist societies on their own ground. About 30 lectures were given to other organisations by the Society's panel of lecturers.

The year was marked by the publication of a comprehensive Tract on Municipal Banking, which has had a fairly large sale. A new and second edition will be required.

Research and study work carried on, the research being concerned with certain unorthodox financial proposals of the President, and the study of Bernard Shaw's book, "The Intelligent Woman's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism," wherein Shaw was criticised for the enunciation of his doctrine of equality of income, and a disavowal of same made to him.

Press correspondence carried on.

Delegates carried on useful work on local Trades Council and Labour Party, Workers' Educational Association, etc., and representatives attended various educational conferences.

Support given to Frank A. P. Rowe, B.A., the Labour and Fabian candidate for the Walton Parliamentary Division.

Two members on City Council and one on adjoining Borough Council.

Fifty-five members, including 1 Associate and 5 Life Honorary members.

Hon. General Secretary, Frank Collins, "Black Oak," Parkgate, Wirral Cheshire.

**West Ham.**—The group has representatives on the Borough Labour Party, the Divisional Labour Parties, etc. Its members take an active share in the work of the Labour Party in the Borough. Hon. Secretary, Henry Davis, 61, Ravenscroft Road, Canning Town, E.16.

## OTHER FABIAN ORGANISATIONS.

**Copenhagen.**—A group of students have formed a Society on Fabian lines. Address, Miss Else Bengtsson, Fjords Allé 9, Copenhagen.

**Hamilton, Ontario.**—Formed March 1918. Secretary, J. L. Counsell, 40, Robinson St., Hamilton, Canada.

**Montreal.**—A "Centre" was formed some years ago with 30 members; a Literature Committee has been appointed, a parcel of Fabian publications purchased, and other work is contemplated. President, George E. Figg; Secretary treasurer, N. Knight, P.O. Box 804, Montreal, Canada.

**Japan.**—An active Fabian Society is now established in Japan under the Presidency of Professor Abé, of the Waseda University, Tokio. The Society is issuing regular monthly bulletins entitled "Studies in Socialism," and it is also publishing translations of various Fabian Tracts.—Address, the Secretary, Japan Fabian Society, 19 Sinsakuraka, Co Siba, Tokio, Japan.

There is a "Fabian Office" at the Old Grey House, 58, Anderson Street, Boston U.S.A., which carries on lectures, "informal teas" and other activities; and an Escuela Nueva," modelled on the F.S. at Madrid.—Prof. Martí Jara, Calle del Prado 11, 2e Madrid Spain. The Gesellschaft für Sozialforschung of Frankfurt, Germany, is affiliated to the Fabian Society.—Address: The Secretary, Viktoria Allee, 17, Frankfurt, a.m. Germany.

Active relations are maintained between the Fabian Society and the League for Industrial Democracy, of America Dr. Harry W. Laidler, Secretary, 112, East 19th Street, New York City; and with the Public Ownership League of the U.S.A., Carol D. Thompson, Secretary, 127, N. Dearborn Street, Chicago Ill., U.S.A., and with the Fabian Club, Auckland, New Zealand, established 1928. Hon. Sec.: Mr. E. G. Macky, 12 Dromorne Rd., Remuera, Auckland, N.Z.

# THE FABIAN SOCIETY

11 DARTMOUTH STREET, WESTMINSTER, LONDON, S.W.1.

Those willing to join the Labour Party, or desirous of obtaining information about its Programme and Principles, are invited to communicate with the Secretary of the Fabian Society.

The Fabian Society has been, from the outset, a constituent body of the Labour Party; and membership of the Society carries with it full membership of the Labour Party; eligibility for nomination to all Conferences and Offices, and qualification for Labour Party, candidatures for Parliament and Local Authorities, without obligation to belong to any other organisation.

The Society welcomes as members any persons, men or women, wherever resident, who subscribe to its Basis (set forth below), and who will co-operate in its work according to their opportunities.

## BASIS OF THE FABIAN SOCIETY.

(TO BE SIGNED BY ALL MEMBERS.)

(Adopted May 23rd, 1919.)

The Fabian Society consists of Socialists.

It therefore aims at the reorganisation of Society by the emancipation of Land and Industrial Capital from individual ownership, and the vesting of them in the community for the general benefit. In this way only can the natural and acquired advantages of the country be equitably shared by the whole people.

The Society accordingly works for the extinction of private property in land, with equitable consideration of established expectations, and due provision as to the tenure of the home and the homestead; for the transfer to the community, by constitutional methods, of all such industries as can be conducted socially; and for the establishment, as the governing consideration in the regulation of production, distribution and service, of the common good instead of private profit.

The Society is a constituent of the Labour Party and of the International Socialist Congress; but it takes part freely in all constitutional movements, social, economic and political, which can be guided towards its own objects. Its direct business is (a) the propaganda of Socialism in its application to current problems; (b) investigation and discovery in social, industrial, political and economic relations; (c) the working out of Socialist principles in legislation and administrative reconstruction; (d) the publication of the results of its investigations and their practical lessons.

The Society, believing in equal citizenship of men and women in the fullest sense, is open to persons irrespective of sex, race or creed, who commit themselves to its aims and purposes as stated above, and undertake to promote its work.

The Society includes:—

- I. Members, who must sign the Basis and be elected by the Committee. Their Subscriptions are not fixed; each is expected to subscribe annually according to his means. They control the Society through the Executive Committee (elected annually by ballot through a postal vote), and at its annual and other business meetings.
- II. Associates, who sign a form expressing only general sympathy with the objects of the Society and pay not less than 10s. a year. They can attend all except the exclusively members' meetings, but have no control over the Society and its policy.
- III. Subscribers, who must pay at least 5s. a year, and who can attend the Society's Ordinary Lectures.

The monthly paper, *Fabian News*, and the Tracts from time to time published in the well-known Fabian Series, are posted to all these classes. There are convenient Common Rooms, where light refreshments can be obtained, with an extensive library for the free use of members only.

Among the Society's activities (in which it places its services unreservedly at the disposal of the Labour Party and the Local Labour Parties all over the country, the Trade Unions and Trades Councils, and all other Labour and Socialist organisations), may be mentioned:

- (i.) Free lectures by its members and officers;
- (ii.) The well-known Fabian Book-boxes, each containing about three dozen of the best books on Economics, Politics and Social Problems, which can be obtained by any organisation of men or women for 15s. per annum, covering an exchange of books every three months;
- (iii.) Answers to Questions from Members of Local Authorities and others on legal, technical or political matters of Local Government, etc.;
- (iv.) Special subscription courses of lectures on new developments in thought;
- (v.) Economic and social investigation and research, and publication of the results.

Lists of Publications, Annual Report, Form of Application as Member or Associate, and any other information can be obtained on application personally or by letter to the Secretary at the above address.

## SELECTION OF FABIAN PUBLICATIONS.

(Complete list sent on application.)

- THE COMMONSENSE OF MUNICIPAL TRADING. By BERNARD SHAW. 1/6 net; postage 2d.  
THE DECAY OF CAPITALIST CIVILISATION. By SIDNEY and BEATRICE WEBB. Cloth, 4/6; paper, 2/6; postage 4d.  
HISTORY OF THE FABIAN SOCIETY. By EDWARD R. PEASE. New edition. 1925. 6/-, postage 5d.  
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